

Dry Needling Statutes

CHAPTER 640B - ATHLETIC TRAINERS

NRS 640B.037 “Dry needling” defined. “Dry needling”:

1. Means a skilled technique performed by an athletic trainer using a single-use, single-insertion, sterile filiform needle, which is used to penetrate the skin or underlying tissue to effect change in body conditions, pain, movement, impairment and disability.

2. Does not include:

- (a) The stimulation of an auricular point;
- (b) The stimulation of sinus points or other nonlocal points to treat underlying organs;
- (c) Needle retention; or
- (d) The teaching or application of acupuncture.

(Added to NRS by 2019, 1587)

NRS 640B.090 “Practice of athletic training” defined.

1. “Practice of athletic training” means:

(a) The prevention, recognition, assessment, management, treatment, disposition or reconditioning of the athletic injury of an athlete:

- (1) Whose condition is within the professional preparation and education of the licensed athletic trainer; and
- (2) That is performed under the direction of a physician;

(b) The organization and administration of programs of athletic training;

(c) The administration of an athletic training room;

(d) The provision of information relating to athletic training to members of the public;

(e) The performance of dry needling under the direction of a physician, if an athletic trainer is qualified to do so pursuant to the regulations adopted in accordance with subsection 5 of NRS 640B.260; or

(f) Any combination of the activities described in paragraphs (a) to (e), inclusive.

2. The term does not include the diagnosis of a physical disability, massaging of the superficial soft tissues of the body or the use of X-rays, radium or electricity for cauterization or surgery.

(Added to NRS by 2003, 895; A 2019, 1588)

NRS 640B.260 Regulations. The Board shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter, including, without limitation, regulations that establish:

1. The passing grades for the examinations required by NRS 640B.310 and 640B.320.

2. Appropriate criteria for determining whether an entity is an intercollegiate athletic association, interscholastic athletic association, professional athletic organization or amateur athletic organization.

3. The standards of practice for athletic trainers.

4. The requirements for continuing education for the renewal of a license of an athletic trainer. The requirements must be at least equivalent to the requirements for continuing education for the renewal of a certificate of an athletic trainer issued by the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification or its successor organization.

5. The qualifications an athletic trainer must obtain before he or she is authorized to perform dry needling, which must include, without limitation, the successful completion of not less than 150 hours of didactic education and training in dry needling approved by the Board. Such hours may include didactic education and training completed as part of a graduate-level program of study.

6. Procedures concerning the handling of needles used to perform dry needling, including, without limitation, procedures for the disposal of a needle after a single use.

7. Procedures to ensure that an athletic trainer does not engage in needle retention.

(Added to NRS by 2003, 897; A 2019, 1588)

NRS 640B.890 Limitation on insertion of same needle during dry needling. An athletic trainer who is qualified to perform dry needling pursuant to the regulations adopted in accordance with subsection 5 of NRS 640B.260 shall not insert the same needle more than one time during the performance of dry needling.

(Added to NRS by 2019, 1587)

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/nrs-640b.html>